

Message Text

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EUR/WE:WHMARSH

S/S:MR. EALUM

WH:MR. CLIFT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 271798

LIMDIS, TOSEC 063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, FR

SUBJECT: FRELOC CLAIM AGAINST FRANCE

REF: PARIS 27772

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW AUTHORIZED US TO INFORM THE GOF THAT WE ACCEPT THEIR 100 MILLION DOLLAR OFFER OF A FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE FRELOC CLAIM, WHICH THEY PROPOSED TO PAY OVER TEN YEARS. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO THEM THAT THE PAYMENTS BE COMPLETED IN FIVE YEARS, AND THAT THE SETTLEMENT BE FORMALIZED IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES. WE WOULD ALSO PROPOSE THAT THE AMOUNT BE DENOMINATED IN DOLLARS IN THE NOTES.

2. THE EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS OFFER ALONG THE ABOVE LINES.

3. WE WISH TO HAVE THIS SETTLEMENT AGREED TO BEFORE

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MARTINIQUE, AS DE COURCEL SUGGESTED, AND WOULD WISH A

QUICK REACTION FROM THE FRENCH ON THE FIVE-YEAR REPAYMENT PERIOD AND DENOMINATION OF THE SETTLEMENT IN DOLLARS.

4. WE HAVE IN MIND FORMALIZING THE AGREEMENT BY MEANS OF AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. THIS EXCHANGE OF NOTES NEED NOT NECESSARILY PRECEDE MARTINIQUE IF IT IS CLEAR THAT WE ARE IN AGREEMENT ON

ALL ESSENTIALS. THE EMBASSY SHOULD ESTABLISH THAT THIS METHOD OF PROCEEDING IS AGREEABLE TO THE FRENCH.

5. THE EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO INQUIRE ABOUT FRENCH WISHES AS TO WHETHER THIS SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO MARTINIQUE OR AT MARTINIQUE. WE ARE AGREEABLE TO EITHER WAY OF PROCEEDING.

6. IN THE EVENT THE FRENCH WISH TO ANNOUNCE THIS AT MARTINIQUE WE SUGGEST LANGUAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES AS EITHER A SEPARATE STATEMENT OR PART OF ANY AGREED COMMUNIQUE: "THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE INDICATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO REACH A FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELOCATION OF AMERICAN NATO-COMMITTED FORCES AND MATERIEL FROM FRANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN 1966-68. THE FRENCH OFFER OF 100 MILLION DOLLARS IN FULL SETTLEMENT WAS FORMALLY ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT FORD."

7. IN THE EVENT THE FRENCH WISH TO ANNOUNCE THIS BEFORE MARTINIQUE, THE LANGUAGE WOULD BE CHANGED ACCORDINGLY. EMBASSY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO OBTAIN FINAL CLEARANCE FROM WHITE HOUSE ON TEXT AND TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND THAT WE WILL WISH TO COORDINATE WITH FRENCH SO AS TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT.

8. FYI: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCENARIO APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT, WE ARE NOTIFYING CONGRESSMAN MOORHEAD BY CONFIDENTIAL LETTER OF OUR INTENTION TO ACCEPT THE FRENCH OFFER, AND INSTRUCTING USNATO BY SEPTEL TO NOTIFY AMBASSADOR DE STAERCCKE. INGERSOLL

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